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SUBJECT: EUROPEAN BRIEF OCPAS-EUR 89-087 FOR 15 APRIL 1989.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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1. USSR: NEW PARTY CHIEF IN GEORGIA

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MOSCOW'S REMOVAL OF THE GEORGIAN PARTY CHIEF MAY EASE SOME  
GEORGIAN BITTERNESS OVER SUNDAY'S KILLINGS, BUT HIS REPLACEMENT BY  
THE LOCAL KGB CHIEF WILL WORRY NATIONALISTS.

ACCORDING TO SOVIET MEDIA REPORTS, THE GEORGIAN PARTY REMOVED  
THE PARTY CHIEF AND PREMIER YESTERDAY. THE PARTY CHIEF, DZHUMBER  
PATIASHVILI, WAS REPLACED BY THE REPUBLIC'S KGB CHIEF, GIVI

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29-Mar-2010

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[REDACTED]  
GUMBARIDZE, FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE, ANNOUNCING THE CHANGES, STRESSED THAT THE VICTIMS OF SUNDAY'S VIOLENCE WERE "COMPLETELY INNOCENT."

[REDACTED] THE COMMANDER OF THE TRANSCAUCASIAN MILITARY DISTRICT ALSO WAS HEAVILY CRITICIZED AT THE PLENUM FOR HIS ROLE IN THE INCIDENT. ANTIMILITARY FEELING IN GEORGIA IS HIGH; [REDACTED] TWO LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAD ISSUES CONFISCATED FROM NEWSSTANDS BECAUSE THEY CONTAINED ARTICLES THAT REPEATED THE POPULAR ALLEGATION THAT TROOPS HAD BEATEN PROTESTERS TO DEATH WITH SPADES. THE MILITARY NEWSPAPER KRASNAYA ZVEZDA YESTERDAY PUBLISHED A HEATED DEFENSE OF THE MILITARY'S PERFORMANCE THAT DENIED ALL RUMORS OF BEATING DEATHS. SOVIET SPOKESMAN GENNADIY GERASIMOV SAID YESTERDAY THAT A COMMITTEE WAS INVESTIGATING THE DEATHS. [REDACTED]

FUNERALS FOR THE VICTIMS OF SUNDAY'S VIOLENCE HAVE BEGUN;

2,000 MOURNERS, MONITORED BUT NOT OBSTRUCTED BY POLICE AND TROOPS, REPORTEDLY ATTENDED THE FIRST FUNERAL, HELD ON THURSDAY. TBILISI'S UNIVERSITY STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BOYCOTT CLASSES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] GORBACHEV'S ADDRESS ON WEDNESDAY WAS POORLY RECEIVED IN TBILISI BECAUSE OF ITS HARSH TONE. [REDACTED]

COMMENT: PATIASHVILI'S REMOVAL AND OFFICIAL TOLERANCE OF THE FUNERALS ARE CLEARLY INTENDED TO APPEASE GEORGIAN ANGER. THE APPOINTMENT OF THE LOCAL KGB CHIEF SEEMS DESIGNED TO LET NATIONALISTS KNOW THAT FURTHER DISTURBANCES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. THE CRITICISM OF THE LOCAL MILITARY COMMANDER AND THE PARTY PURGE THAT APPEARS IMMINENT SUGGEST MOSCOW WILL TRY TO KEEP BLAME FOR THE BLOODSHED FOCUSED AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. [REDACTED]

THE SIZABLE SECURITY PRESENCE PROBABLY WILL SUCCEED IN MAINTAINING PUBLIC ORDER FOR THE TIME BEING, BUT THE EMOTIONS SURROUNDING THE FUNERALS ARE LIKELY TO KEEP TENSIONS HIGH. [REDACTED]

USSR

GIVI GUMBARIDZE

NEW GEORGIAN PARTY BOSS

AT 43, THE USSR'S YOUNGEST REPUBLIC CHIEF . . . HAS SPED TO THE TOP OF THE GEORGIAN PARTY APPARATUS . . . IN PAST YEAR ROSE FROM CHIEF OF THE REPUBLIC ORGANIZATIONAL PARTY WORK DEPARTMENT TO TBILISI CITY FIRST SECRETARY (IN MAY), TO REPUBLIC KGB CHIEF (IN DECEMBER) TO PARTY FIRST SECRETARY . . . RECENTLY ELECTED TO THE CONGRESS OF PEOPLES' DEPUTIES . . . WAS APPARENTLY SELECTED AS PARTY BOSS BY POLITBURO MEMBER EDUARD SHEVARDNADZE AND PARTY CADRES SECRETARY GEORGIY RAZUMOVSKIY, WHO WENT TO GEORGIA MONDAY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE SITUATION . . . GUMBARIDZE'S BACKGROUND SIMILAR TO SHEVARDNADZE'S; THE FOREIGN MINISTER WAS HEAD OF THE GEORGIAN MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS FROM 1965 TO 1972 BEFORE BECOMING REPUBLIC PARTY BOSS. [REDACTED]

GUMBARIDZE MAY BE A HARDLINER ON ETHNIC ISSUES . . . DURING HIS FOUR MONTHS AS REPUBLIC KGB CHIEF, DEMONSTRATORS IN GEORGIA WERE TREATED ROUGHLY, AND AN ATTEMPT REPORTEDLY WAS MADE ON THE LIFE OF A LEADING DISSIDENT . . . UNLIKE THE FIRST SECRETARIES APPOINTED IN

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ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN DURING ETHNIC DISTURBANCES THERE LAST YEAR, GUMBARIDZE IS A REPUBLIC INSIDER WHO APPARENTLY SPENT HIS ENTIRE CAREER IN GEORGIA . . . A PARTY PURGE--LIKE THOSE NEW PARTY LEADERS CONDUCTED IN ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN--HAS ALREADY BEGUN . . . THE PLENUM NAMED NODAR CHITANAVA AS THE NEW REPUBLIC PREMIER, AND THE SUPREME SOVIET PRESIDENT HAS ALSO TENDERED HIS RESIGNATION

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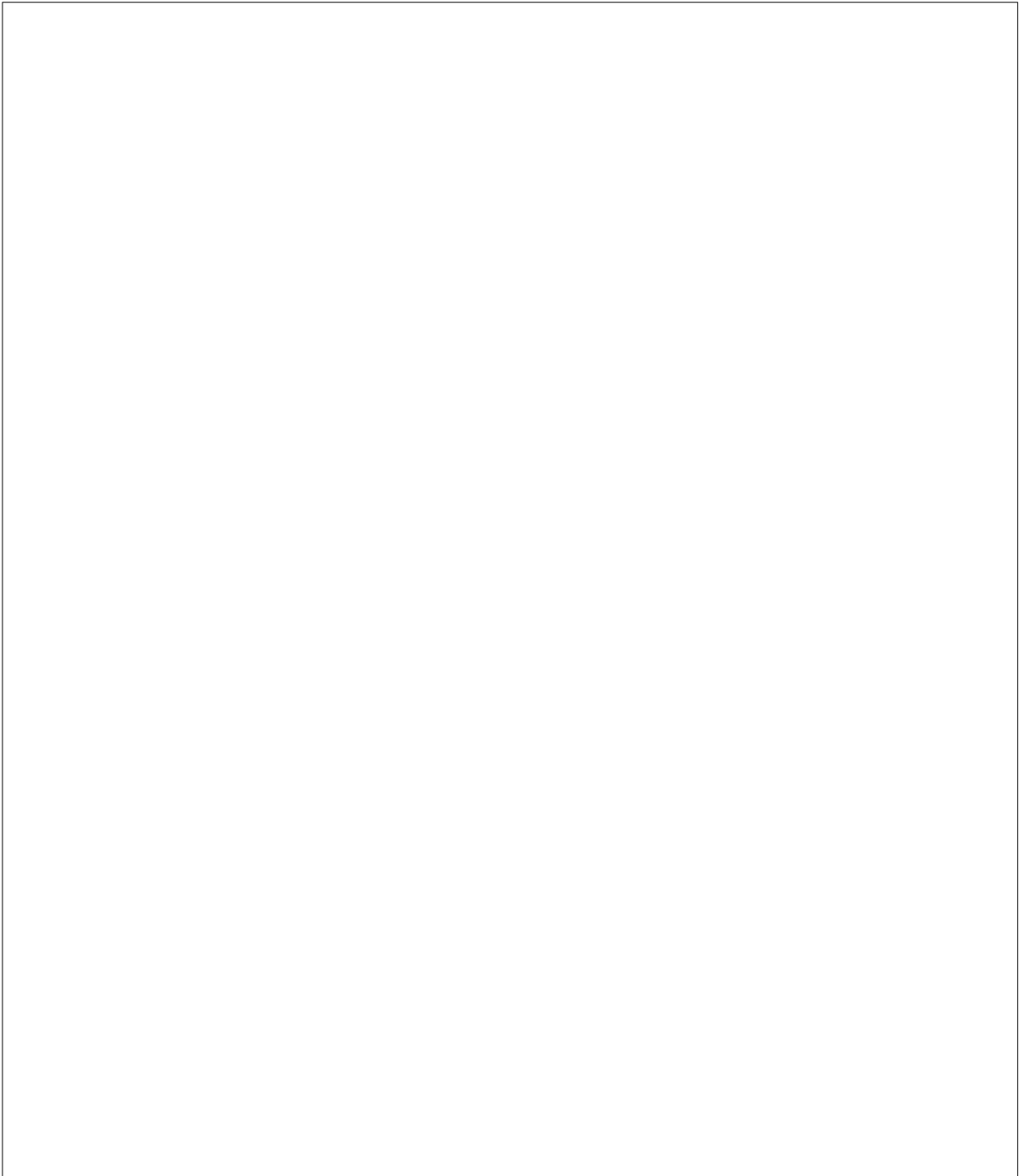
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